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obligations to him for having spent so much time during the past year in preparing it for the Brussels Conference. It will come to the attention of the New Hague Conference, as it well deserves to do, and will no doubt be of great utility in helping to shape the new arbitration convention which that Conference will find itself under the necessity of drafting.

The American proposition at Brussels for the creation of a regular international parliament awakened great interest in the Conference. It was very ably presented and supported by Mr. Bartholdt and four or five other members of the delegation who spoke. It was most encouraging to hear them one after another advocate in an unequivocal way the creation of such an international institution, already approved by the Massachusetts Legislature and other eminent bodies, which is sure in the near future to be created and to play a great part in the future development of civilization.

The proposition was not, however, formally approved by the Conference. Count Apponyi, the distinguished Hungarian statesman, and others, while in full sympathy with the purpose of the proposal, felt that the subject was a most important and at the same time difficult one. Anything that might be done in this direction must carefully provide for the preservation of national sovereignty and autonomy. The Conference finally decided to refer the subject, as well as that of the draft of an arbitration treaty, to a special committee, who should further study the subject and have power to call a meeting of the Executive Council of the Union, if this should seem advisable in order to get the subject properly before the next Hague Conference.

The action of President Roosevelt in taking the initiative for a new conference at The Hague, as he had promised the Interparliamentary deputation at Washington last year, as well as his effort to bring the Russo-Japanese war to an end, was warmly applauded by the Conference, and a cablegram of thanks and congratulation was sent him. There was a good deal of anxiety and fear among the members lest the peace negotiations at Portsmouth might fail. Some were very skeptical about the matter. The first word of the successful issue of the negotiations reached Brussels during the last evening, while a great reception by the municipality was going on in the Hôtel de Ville. The delegates were overjoyed at the news, and it was the principal subject of conversation during the evening. The American delegation was enthusiastically congratulated on every hand. Count Apponyi, who had been very doubtful of a successful outcome of the Portsmouth Conference, on seeing the cablegram, came almost in a run across the reception hall to congratulate the present writer that peace was assured and that our country had done such a noble service to humanity in bringing about

the happy result. He expressed very great admiration for President Roosevelt as a peacemaker, as did practically everybody whom the writer met in Europe.

The Conference was most hospitably received by the Belgian Interparliamentary group and the Brussels authorities, and the proceedings ended by a visit to the Exposition at Liège, where the last meeting, with luncheon, was held.

## The International Law Conference at Christiania.

Immediately following the Conference of the Interparliamentary Union at Brussels came the twenty-second Conference of the International Law Association at Christiania, from the 4th to the 7th of September. It proved to be one of the most successful meetings held by the Association in recent years. About eighty members out of the four hundred were present, representing ten different countries. A large number were of course from Norway, where much interest is taken in international law, especially in maritime law.

Unusual interest was added to the occasion by the fact that the meeting was held in the new building which has been constructed for the Nobel Institute and the Nobel Committee of the Norwegian Parliament. The building, which has a lecture hall, committee rooms, library rooms, and quarters for the Nobel Committee, has just been completed, and this was the first conference ever held in it. It was therefore a sort of inauguration service for the building which is destined to play a conspicuous part hereafter in the international peace movement, to the extension of which Mr. Nobel devoted a considerable portion of his great fortune. From this building will go out every December the announcement of the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Conference was organized by the election of Justice F. V. N. Beichman, president of the Court of Appeal of Trondhjem, as president. Mr. J. Anderson Aars, president of the Exchange and Chamber of Commerce Committee, which had invited the Association to Norway, made the address of welcome, not only in the name of the Exchange and Chamber of Commerce, but also of the Barristers Association and the City Government, both of which contributed immensely to the success and pleasure of the meeting.

After an excellent address by the president of the Conference the remainder of the first day's session, after the election of vice-presidents and secretaries, was devoted to the subject of international arbitration and the work of the Norwegian government and parliament in promoting arbitration and neutrality. The paper on arbitration presented by Dr. W. E. Darby, secretary of the Peace Society, London, gave the details of all the latest phases of the development of the principle in its practical application in the settlement of controversies. The government and parliament of Norway were shown to have done admirable service in promoting arbitration, through their official approval of the principle, through the Interparliamentary Union, through their subventions to the Peace Bureau at Berne, etc.

On the second day the subjects considered were: "Neutral Trade in Contraband of War," "Coals as Con-

traband of War," "Questions of International Law Arising out of the Russo-Japanese War," "Recrudescence of Belligerent Pretensions" and "Prize Courts and an International Prize Court of Appeal." The papers on these subjects by Mr. Douglas Owen, of the London Bar, Mr. George Marais, Advocate in the Court of Appeal of Paris, Dr. Thomas Baty, barrister, of London, and Mr. J. Pawley Bate, lecturer on international law at the Inns of Court, London, were able and instructive, though technical in character.

A resolution was voted by the Conference in favor of the neutralization of all passenger and mail steamers, under severe restrictions as to carrying contraband of war. A resolution was also voted that coal should be considered only conditionally contraband of war. The spirit of the Conference was strongly in favor of the extension of neutral rights and of the increased restriction of the so-called rights of belligerents.

On the third day the legal relations between charterers and ship owners, and kindred topics under maritime law, were discussed.

On the last day the topics discussed were: "The Desirability of Extending the Berne Railway Transport of Goods," "Rules for the Recognition of Foreign Companies," "Foreign Judgments," etc.

In relation to all the subjects that came before the Conference, there was manifested a strong desire that the governments should act in a spirit of increasing coöperation in the interests of trade, of the preservation of life, and of the avoidance of friction through carelessness and injustice.

One could not but observe the conspicuous absence from the Conference of delegates from Sweden. None, of course, were expected, as the Conference met at the time when feeling between the two countries was strongest on account of the formal withdrawal of Norway from the Union. But the Norwegian members of the Conference could not have conducted themselves with greater self-restraint and propriety than they did. Not a word of criticism of Sweden was heard, nor a word of boastful self-justification of the Norwegians. One would not have known, from anything that was said, that anything unusual had happened. Even in private prominent men answered with great care and moderation questions put to them about the situation. The seriousness of the situation was felt, but there seemed no disposition to exaggerate or make it worse by rash and untimely speech. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that, since such a spirit as this prevailed, an agreement between the two countries was quickly reached which averted all danger of war.

It is not easy to see how hospitality could be more sincere and generous than that which was extended to the foreign delegates. Every Norwegian met did his best, with what English, French or German he knew, to make us all feel at home. On the first evening there was a reception, with supper, given by the Chamber of Commerce Committee at one of the most beautiful suburban resorts; on the second afternoon and evening a dinner was given by the same Committee at another of the fine resorts outside of the city; on the third afternoon the guests were taken on an excursion on the fjord, which terminated in another dinner on an island not far from the city; and on the last evening a great

banquet was given the members of the Conference by the municipality in the Hôtel de Ville, which was presided over by the mayor. We have heard of people being killed with kindness, but this week in Christiania we came near realizing in fact what it meant. Certain it is that no member of the Twenty-second Conference of the International Law Association can ever find it in his heart to think ill of the Norwegians.

## Editorial Notes.

### The Anglo-Japanese Treaty.

The diplomatic event of the last month was the publication of the new Anglo-Japanese treaty, which was signed in London on the 12th of August by Lord Lansdowne and Baron Hayashi. We give the text of it on another page for the convenience of those who may wish to examine its provisions. It is in some respects a renewal of the treaty concluded by the two powers three years ago, though it is a broader and much more significant document. It is open to the serious objections which may be brought against all offensive and defensive military alliances, which are wrong in principle, and always work more or less mischief in practice. The treaty has already aroused much indignation in Germany, and is quite certain to widen the breach between her and England. Its effect upon the relations between England and Russia is also sure to be bad, as it is clearly aimed against the latter country. But it is more than a military alliance. Its main purpose is the maintenance of general peace in the Far East, and with this aim we must all sympathize. It guarantees the independence and integrity of China and equal opportunity for the commerce and industry of all nations in China. It does not, however, treat Korea as it ought to do. It practically turns her over to the control of Japan, and to speedy annexation without consulting the Korean people. The former treaty guaranteed the independence of Korea. While this new treaty, in spite of its fundamental defect, goes a good way in the right direction, a very much better treaty might have been made in the interests of the East. All the important nations having relations with the East ought to have entered into a general treaty in the interests of peace and commerce, and the independence of the Eastern nations. No military provisions of any kind need have gone into such an agreement. There is little doubt that Russia, Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Belgium, the United States, etc., could easily have been induced at the present auspicious moment to join in such a purely peace compact, and thus the whole Eastern question have been once for all settled. It seems strange that no responsible statesman should have seen this extraordinary opportunity to do for the East what England and France have done for themselves in a smaller way by the Great Agreement recently drawn